

# THE SHOFAR

November 2021

## Congregation B'nai Israel:

Traditional Conservative Synagogue  
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## FROM THE DESK OF RABBI PEARL

It's hard to believe, but at the end of this month, Chanukah will be upon us. The Holiday of lights, beloved by all, comes to remind us that light has the power to dispel darkness, that the light of Torah will defeat the darkness of hatred, bigotry and intolerance.

Twenty-two centuries ago, when Israel was under the rule of the empire of Alexander the Great, one particular leader, Antiochus IV, decided to force the pace of Hellenisation, forbidding Jews to practice their religion and setting up in the Temple in Jerusalem a statue of Zeus Olympus.

This was too much to bear, and a group of Jews, the Maccabees, fought for their religious freedom, winning a stunning victory against the most powerful army of the ancient world. After three years they reconquered Jerusalem, rededicated the Temple and relit the menorah with the one cruse of undefiled oil they found among the wreckage.

It was one of the most stunning military achievements of the ancient world. It was, as we say in our prayers, a victory of the few over the many, the weak over the strong. It's summed up in wonderful line from the prophet Zechariah: not by might nor by strength but by my spirit says the Lord. The Maccabees had neither might nor strength, neither weapons nor numbers. But they had a double portion of the Jewish spirit that longs for freedom and is prepared to fight for it.

Never believe that a handful of dedicated people can't change the world. Inspired by faith, they can. The Maccabees did then. So can we today.

In a world beset by disease, hatred and fear, the message of Chanukah is more important than ever. Our love for Torah, our love and loyalty for our fellow Jews, and our love for the well being of all people will defeat all the evil that rises up against us. When you light your Menorah, when you sing the blessings and Maoz Tzur, celebrate what that light has meant and continues to mean for us.

HAPPY CHANUKAH!

**FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES - 8:00 PM**

**SATURDAY MORNING SERVICES - 9:30 AM**

## OFFICERS OF CONG. B'NAI ISRAEL

President	Marty Eisenberg
Executive VP	Kevin Brosnick
First VP	Sharon Pekuly
Treasurer	Joel Abidor
Financial Secretary	Susan Finkelstein
Recording Secretary	Barbara Smith
Hebrew School Director	Lillian Brosnick
Sisterhood President	Sandra Levy

## FRIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING

11/05 - 5:30 pm - Kislev 1

11/12 - 4:23 pm - Kislev 8

11/19 - 4:18 pm - Kislev 15

11/26 - 4:14 pm - Kislev 22

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After traveling to Europe to see family, I feel stronger about the importance of *family*. I came home to meet and work with my temple family. I want to see them in person and let them know how important they are to our synagogue family.

I want to thank our members who have taken an active role in keeping our synagogue going. Thank you to our Men's Club for sharing ideas and support in this new group. We meet every Sunday at 12:30 PM via Zoom and discuss varied issues, including those that affect the temple. New members always welcome.

Thank you, Sandy Levy, and the ladies of the Sisterhood for all the varied help you provide. Barbara Smith has done a great job editing our Shofar and Susan Finkelstein has worked many tiring hours to keep our office and temple running.

More help is always needed. Barry Kashubo has finally retired as our House Chairman, after many great years of service. Barry, you will be missed!

We now need someone to step up. Could it be you? The ritual committee is also looking for new members. Maybe that's where your interests are.

Please contact me with your ideas and suggestions.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Marty Eisenberg

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

Now that autumn is upon us, we try to hold on to the more comfortable weather as well as enjoy some outdoor activity. The leaves are changing into their spectacular colors. Sisterhood has been able to enjoy two great park visits.

Our visit to Wolff's Pond Park was a lot of fun. We sat near the ocean, We hope this year we can do as well or better. Chanukah begins on the evening of November 28, so we have to begin now.

Letters will be going out by mail this week asking for your participation.

Left out because the response was received too late. The date the response needs to be received by is November 12. Complete instructions will be found in the letter.

Bette Goldstein ably moderated our last book club meeting on October 18. We discussed "The Woman With the Blue Star". Our next selection is Snow in August by Pete Hamill.

Our next Sisterhood meeting will be at the synagogue on Wednesday November 10 at 11a.m. Fun Nite will be on Monday, November 15 at 7:30p.m. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Sandy Levy

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

On August 31, 2021, our preschool families participated in "Ready, Set, School" to set their child up for a successful year of learning. Families were able to watch the workshops live or on their own time. Each workshop ended with a live ask-me-anything parenting question and answer session.

We are happy to announce both our 3-K for All (twenty-two children) and Pre-K for All (fifteen children) NYC Department of Education programs are full.

Thank you for your ongoing support to make your dream of a viable and quality preschool a reality. We value our partnership!

The CBI Academy Preschool Team

## DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:

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Jacob Goldberg .....Ida Goldberg  
Laurie & David Raps ..... Selma Rosenblum  
Roberta Sapolsky ..... Gertrude Sapolsky

## DAYS/DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sundays - 10:00 am via Zoom**

Rabbi's class on How the Siddur uses Psalms

**Sundays - 12:30 pm via Zoom**

Men's Club meeting

**Wednesday - November 10 - 11:00 am**

Sisterhood Meeting at the temple

**Friday - November 12**

Chanukah Card money due

**Monday - November 15 - 7:30 pm**

Sisterhood Fun Night at the temple

**Tuesday - November 16 - 8:00 pm**

Board of Trustees meeting at the temple



*The CBI family and friends extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. Sandy Berger, who was a valued and long-time member of Congregation B'nai Israel.*



**DONORS WHO**  
**HAVE FULFILLED THEIR HOLIDAY PLEDGES**

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### Yahrzeits FOR Nov 2021

Yahrzeits begin on the evening before the given date. If you need to say Kaddish for a Yahrzeit, please call the office two weeks before and we will try to have a Minyan. It would be helpful if you could have a few family members or friends attend the services to make sure there is a Minyan. For additions or corrections to this list, please contact Scott Diamond at 917-674-3317 or [slzdiamond@hotmail.com](mailto:slzdiamond@hotmail.com)

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